Periodical check up of elephants

1883. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many elephants engaged for joy rides for tourists had gone mad and had to be killed by forest officials;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during the last two years and the causes for their going mad;

(c) whether there is no system of periodical check up of elephants and there is no cure to treat madness in elephants instead of killing them; and

(d) how mortal remains of killed elephants are disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There are few instances of elephants, engaged for joy ride for tourists, going out of the Mahout's control temporarily. However, no incidence of such elephants going out of the control to the extent that they had to killed by forest officials has been reported by any State/UT in last two years. The common reasons of elephants getting out of control are:— (i) being in musth (ii) being over used (iii) being disturbed by other wild animals.

(c) The State/UT Forest Departments do have a system of periodical check up of elephants kept in Zoos, Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Sanctuaries for joy-ride purposes. Normally, the male elephants become aggressive during and just after the 'Masth' period and there is no cure except not to use them during this period.

(d) Most of the States follow the practice of burying the mortal remains of the dead elephants, however, in some States they are burnt also.

Forest investment programme

†1884. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently become a part of the Forest Investment Programme, an organization of the countries of the world involved in forest development programmes at international level;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the contribution made by India to this organization;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in India forest cover is much less as compared to physical area and it has started affecting our agriculture and economy;

(d) if so, whether Government has formulated a plan for extension and development of forests in the country and has submitted it to that organization; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.